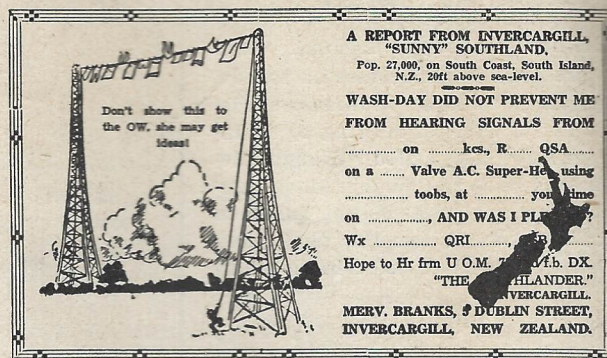


In this, the first of a series of six articles, the author, who received high praise from the judge in the 1937 VK3 Competition and was the only entrant to gain full marks for method of reporting, gives some general, but useful, information on how to report to overseas stations.

IN a series such as this it is difficult to know where to begin. It is proposed to deal with each section during the month when stations in that locality are at their peak period of reception in this Dominion.

March is a month of all-round DX—midnight Americans are starting to disappear and the early evening ones are commencing to re-appear; the Australians and Easterns are slowly recovering from their summer weakness, and at dawn the Europeans are beginning to come in—so article No. 1 will be of general interest.

By this it is not proposed to proceed along the orthodox track and retell the old, old story of full, detailed reports and stressing the need for supplying particulars of locality, receiver, aerial system, weather and atmospheric conditions. Strange though it may seem the days



One of the amusing cards used by the author, who states that it brings results.

of long, detailed reports are disappearing and reports of a more concise nature are coming into favour.

For the Australians and Americans, which constitute the bulk of a dxer's log, the new enlarged report form of the N.Z. DX Club, illustrated on this page, is ideal. It saves stations, which receive hundreds of reports a year, not only the trouble of wading through long, rambling letters which can't be of much interest to them, but also valuable time. For instance 4QR Brisbane, a national station came on the air on January 7 on 940 k.c. while early in February, 7EX, "The Examiner" Station, Launceston made its bow on 1000 k.c. As both emit good signals they will be inundated with requests for verifications from all parts of Australia and New Zealand. Think how a report form lightens their labour—and yours! The forms are obtainable at 2/6 a 100 (post paid) from headquarters. If, however, you log a lone star or one that is seldom heard in this Dominion, an accompanying letter with fuller particulars should certainly be sent.

A card of your own is almost an essential—to gladden the heart of the amateur, to soften the heart of the station which seldom replies, or merely to interest the “old faithful” who never fails to QSL. But the card must not be stereotyped if you want to obtain exceptional results; it must be one “out of the box.” An original card will often bring an original reply—“We are very glad to know that wash-day did not prevent you from hearing WLAS and hope in the future you will have fewer wash-days and more opportunities to hear our station. We think your card is very clever.” “. . . and you may put WBT on record as stating that your card is the most original and by far the least dull one that we have yet received.” “Your very clever card was received. You certainly received our signal mixed up in the clothes line somewhere.”—KEHE.

A photo of the city or your outfit may be used advantageously, also one of the descriptive scenic leaflets issued by the Government Tourist Bureau. A sticker on the envelope adds to the appearance. An exact replica of the club badge in two colours is sold by Headquarters at 1/- for seven dozen; the Minister of Transport, through post offices, issued some worthwhile safety first stickers over the holiday period; the South Islands Travel Association, Christchurch, sells attractive coloured stickers, the price to dxers being 6d. for a sheet of 60 stamps; stickers should appear for the N.Z. Centenary shortly, while your local progress league may be able to oblige.

Return postage works wonders, while a typewriter is a decided asset. If no typewriter is available, write legibly.

Next month's article will deal with the Europeans, which are heard at their best during the equinoxes.